



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.lacounty.gov>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District


ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

May 11, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen   
Chief Administrative Officer

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

### Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

**SB 55 (Florez)**, as amended on April 30, 2007, would require publicly owned treatment works (POTW) to submit a certification to the regional water quality control board that any sewage sludge transferred from the facility for disposal or further processing meets regional board POTW requirements and standards for pollutants. The bill would require the POTW to submit the certification to any person or facility that accepts sewage sludge from that POTW for disposal or processing, and require the POTW to submit certification to haulers transporting the sewage sludge that it is nonhazardous, including whether the sewage belongs to a particular class, or contains other pathogens.

The bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board, by June 1, 2009, in consultation with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the State Air Resources Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture, to conduct a study on the content of, and management options for, sewage sludge.

Federal regulations establish standards for the final use or disposal of sewage sludge generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works, including sewage sludge to be applied to land. The bill would require an applier of sludge to submit samples of the sludge to a laboratory certified by the State Department of Public Health prior to land application to test the sludge for compliance with federal, state, and local regulations.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District operates and maintains four small package wastewater treatment plants, three in the Malibu area and one in the Lake Hughes area of the North County. Sludge generated from the Malibu plants is hauled to the City of Los Angeles for treatment and disposal. Sludge generated from the Lake Hughes plant is dried on-site and 100 percent of the biosolids (dried sludge) are beneficially reused as soil amendment on the plant grounds. DPW indicates that the requirements imposed by the bill do not distinguish between sewage sludge transported to another facility for further treatment, and treated sludge/biosolids. Therefore, DPW would be subject to the same proposed regulations as wastewater treatment plants that treat, haul, and dispose of biosolids.

DPW indicates that passage of this bill would make it technically infeasible for the department to treat the sludge at the Malibu plants to meet the proposed requirements because these plants were not designed to treat sludge and dispose of it on-site. DPW would have to haul the sludge to another agency for treatment and disposal if this bill passes. Because this bill would make it difficult for the department to dispose of waste materials efficiently, DPW recommends that the County oppose SB 55, unless amended to exclude sewage sludge from a POTW that is transferred from the facility for further treatment and disposal to another POTW with a waste discharge requirement issued by the regional boards.

The County has existing policy to support legislation to provide for the safe disposal of all waste materials. Since SB 55 will make it difficult to dispose of waste materials, opposition to SB 55, unless amended, is consistent with existing County policy. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will oppose SB 55, unless amended as indicated above.**

SB 55 is supported by the Planning and Conservation League and the Sierra Club, California. The bill is opposed by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, the Orange County Sanitation Districts, and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. SB 55 is set for hearing on May 14, 2007 in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

#### **Governor, Legislative Leaders and Businesses Hold Press Conference on Health Care Reform**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata, Assembly Minority Mike Villines, and several CEOs of large corporations, including Long's Drugs and Bumble Bee Foods, held a press conference on May 10, 2007 to announce their support for health care reform in 2007. The Governor told reporters that he is pleased to see that the legislative leaders have put health care reform proposals on the table for discussion, and that businesses are now part of the plan to find a workable solution to California's health care crisis. Legislative leaders echoed the Governor's desire for reform, and stated that it is one of their top priorities this legislative session. While supporting reform, Minority Leader Villines expressed concern about any plan that would impose new taxes and mandates on small businesses.

Steve Burd, President and CEO of Safeway, recently founded the Coalition to Advance Healthcare, which is a group of large businesses promoting universal health care at the State and national level. These businesses include Aetna, Kraft Foods, Pacific Gas and Electric, Long's Drugs, and Bumble Bee Foods. Mr. Burd indicated that while he is not endorsing any particular health care proposal, health care reform is a "solvable issue" and should be done this year. He outlined a few key components that should be part of any reform plan, including financial assistance for low-income workers, wellness and prevention incentives in health insurance plans, and allowing employees to pay premiums with pre-tax dollars.

### **Status of County-Advocacy Bills**

**County-supported AB 98 (Niello)**, which would allow specified participants in the CalWORKs program to participate in subsidized employment through welfare-to-work, was placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense file on May 9, 2007.

**County Co-sponsored AB 1062 (Ma)**, which would require the California Department of Social Services to establish a statewide work support pilot program for counties that elect to participate, was placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense file on May 9, 2007.

**County-opposed AB 1073 (Nava)**, which would increase the number of allowable chiropractic, occupational therapy and physical therapy treatment sessions available to workers for industrial injuries, passed the Assembly Floor on May 10, 2007 by a vote of 43 to 27. It now moves to the Senate Rules Committee for assignment to a policy committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:IGR:acn

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 660  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations  
Buddy Program Participants